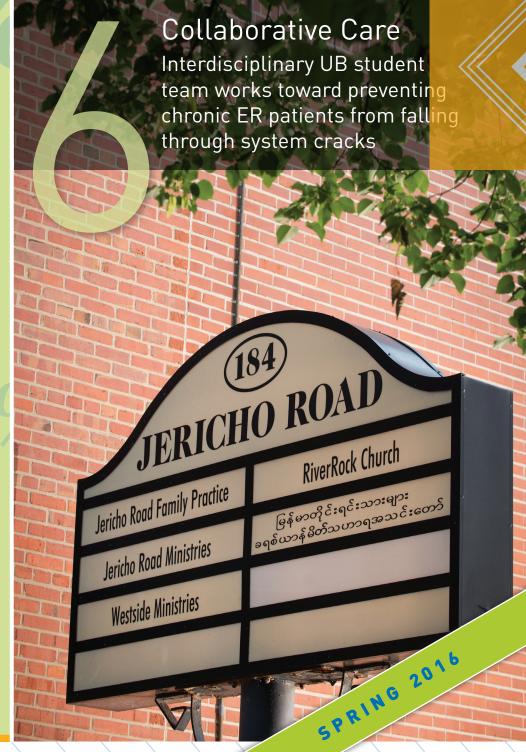
NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MOSAICS









BEST GRAD SCHOOLS

USNEWS REPORT

SOCIAL WORK

2017

2016 10%

2012 12%

2008 20%

2004 15%

2001 **63**%

1997 **68**%

READ;

about it



The cover story in Buffalo Spree (January 2016) about refugees and how they are enriching the local community features Flora Thaw, a refugee from Burma and an MSW student in the School of Social Work, and Juweria Dahir, a refugee from Somalia and a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology. They also are featured in a video interview. (Reprinting of cover courtesy of Buffalo Spree and KC Kratt.)

http://www.buffalospree.com/Buffalo-Spree/January-2016/

https://vimeo.com/148982340

ON THE COVER-

is our own MSW Student, Flora Thaw.

FROM DEAN NANCY J. SMYTH

The 2017 social work rankings just came in--our ranking by US News and World Report's 2017 Best Schools of Social Work places us in the top 10% of schools nationwide. We believe this is, in part, a recognition of UBSSW's commitment to admit exceptional students to all our programs and hire outstanding faculty who embrace a professional commitment to be actively engaged community based researchers and practitioners. Community has always been at the very heart of social work — locally, nationally, internationally and digitally. Because our work is centered on communities, we embrace the importance of building a sense of community through shared interests and goals. The challenge in social work education is to make it clear that when we talk about "the community," it is not just one place; there are always multiple communities.

What is the core of a "community"? It is shared experiences, interests and identity. The physical

environment can be part of creating that shared experience, but it doesn't have to be. For example, some of us now are exploring and creating virtual communities, whether it be a community-of-learning in an online course or a global learning community in multiple virtual spaces (Google Plus, Twitter, Blab, Blogs, and Periscope) that reveal how social workers can use technology in their practice.

This issue of Mosaics highlights a few of our many communities. We focus on the wide-ranging immigrant and refugee communities that are touched by faculty like Wooksoo Kim, on our students supporting each other in their giving to the Students Helping Students fund (with help from alumni, faculty, and staff), on the UB Global Health Equity Community of Excellence, on our social work Twitter chat community, and on the interprofessional communities that are created when students and faculty across UB come together to serve "the community." As you read through these pieces, I hope you'll consider all the communities that are important to you, and I hope that you'll connect with us in one of our place-based or virtual community spaces.

NANCY J. SMYTH. PHD. LCSW

The Mosaics team would like to include a correction to the article "Alumni Field Research Award Recipients" in the Fall 2015 issue. John Keesler, MSW '09 and doctoral candidate in the School of Social Work, was awarded the BCSR Excellence in Research Award for his investigation of the application process for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as experienced by service coordinators and families on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. The award recognizes outstanding research based on scientific rigor, contributions to advance the knowledge-base of social work, and direct implications for social work practice.



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The University at Buffalo is a premier research-intensive public university, the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York. UB's more than 29,000 students pursue their academic interests through more than 390 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs. Founded in 1846, the University at Buffalo is a member of the Association of American Universities.

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RESEARCH for goodness' sake

Wooksoo Kim, PhD, associate professor at the School of Social Work, originally focused her research on Asian immigrants and their descendants. As her areas of interest evolved — based on the shifting populations of immigrants and refugees to Buffalo — she was inspired to help found the Immigrant and Refugee Research Institute (IRRI). With Professor Hilary Weaver, associate dean of academic affairs, Kim co-directs the institute.

How did you form IRRI? Why is it important?

Wooksoo Kim: Obviously, people are paying a lot of attention to immigrants and refugees. With a high percentage of our faculty interested in immigrant and refugee populations, a few years ago, Dean Nancy Smyth suggested that we form an institute.

We want it to be a "meeting place" for research and community needs, to create better connections with Buffalo refugee and immigrant populations and service providers. It seems the need was there, because we got calls right away.

One of the things we've started is a database, which will be accessible via a website soon. We're still in the process of collecting information from and about the agencies, such as what languages they can offer services in. Once the database and website are available, it will be easier for Western New York immigrants and refugees who need information to find it in one place.



Why does IRRI, and the work it's doing, matter?

WK: Social work research has to help people. Otherwise it's not "social work." When I teach research methods, I ask students, "Why does your topic matter? Does it better people's lives?"

It's good for everyone when society works well with immigrants and refugees. We especially have to pay attention to adolescents and children. If we don't, it will cost more later. These young people start out feeling disconnected; they need education and a positive outlet to learn about the culture and become successful.

What do you hope the community gets from it?

First, I hope that everyone knows that research is a good tool for so many reasons. It can help develop community. Agency administrators are starting to understand; we sometimes have to convince them, and say that with your participation, the very least you are going to get is data. Data can back up your gut feelings and hunches, especially when you apply for grants.

When students do research projects on things like program evaluations or community-needs assessments, the agencies and their clients can benefit.

We know that, for the first time in years, Buffalo is growing. Refugees and immigrants are a big part of that; they buy houses, build shops and businesses. When you go to Buffalo's West Side now [where many immigrants settle], it's different. We want to keep the momentum going, we need to help them more, and in the right way. Research can support that.

- Jana Eisenberg

In the larger community, I hope the research helps refugees and immigrants. And that will help Buffalo overall.



CONNECTING

across disciplines to make the world better

"Local is global; global is local."

With these words, School of Social Work Associate Professor Robert Keefe summarizes his view of the methodology and potential impact of UB's recently formed Community of Excellence for Global Health Equity.

The Community for Global Health Equity (CGHE) was announced in 2015; it joins UB's other Communities of Excellence as part of the university's plan to "enhance [UB's] impact on ... local and global communities and offer distinct and innovative educational opportunities ... "

Strongly based on interdisciplinary collaboration, in addition to CGHE, UB's Communities of Excellence include RENEW (Research and Education in eNergy, Environment and Water), SMART (Sustainable Manufacturing and Advanced Robotic Technologies), and GEM (The Genome, the Environment and the Microbiome).

The Global Health Equity community aims, appropriately, "to improve people's lives around the world."

Officially leading the CGHE are Pavani Ram, MD, of the School of Public Health and Health Professions, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, as director, and Kory H. Smith, M Arch, EdD, of the School of Architecture, associate director.

With additional leadership roles filled by engineering and urban planning scholars and practitioners, the cross- and trans-disciplinary group has begun meeting to determine priorities and strategies for maximum impact. School of Social Work faculty immediately got involved.

Said Keefe, who has been active in the CGHE brown-bag forums, "We are looking at our own areas of interest — mine is focused domestically, on maternal and child health — and then thinking about how to make the leap to international impact."

Isok Kim, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, has been engaged with the CGHE's annual refugee health summit that he and colleagues run in Buffalo. His area of interest originally included Asian American mental health and health care. With the ever-changing landscape in Buffalo, his interest has shifted to include more general populations of refugees and immigrants.

"With UB forming the Community of Excellence around global health equity, we can make sure that what we describe and study, and how we intervene and implement, goes from the local to the global," said Kim. "What we witness in Buffalo, the issues affecting local communities and populations — Asian, Burmese, young, old, those traumatized by war — give us that global perspective."

It wasn't always clear how bringing together such disparate scholars would be beneficial, added Keefe. "It's been great to see the relationships between the disciplines; architecture, social work, public health, nutrition and engineering can connect, he said. "At one meeting, an environmental engineer was presenting. As soon as he started talking about the quality of water in the inner city, I realized that affects, for example, how a mother might not be able to access clean water to mix her baby's food."

-Jana Eisenberg





Interprofessional student team that won the award, from left to right: Elizabeth Borngraber, Mallory Abdula, RN, Jordan Katz, MD, David Essi, PharmD

Elizabeth Borngraber, MSW '16, speaks of a patient who had been admitted to the hospital so many times that her care team didn't know what else to do. Borngraber noted that the discharge planner was willing to send the patient to a homeless shelter, rather than connect her to needed services.

"We've noticed that for many of these patients, the system has pretty much given up on trying to treat them because they've failed most conventional types of medical interventions," she explains. "This is what we were told to expect when working with high utilizers of medical services."

Borngraber was one of four students from UB schools of medicine, nursing, pharmacy and social work who came together in a unique project to address the inappropriate use of costly emergency/hospital care through a multidisciplinary student team.

UB was one of 20 schools across the country awarded a "hot spotting mini-grant" conceived by Jeffrey Brunner, MD, of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers. Brunner coined the term "hot spotting," which refers to the practice of identifying patients in a locale who, through social and economic issues, are prevented from receiving timely and cost-effective care.

The four students were to focus on three patients associated with the Jericho Road Community Health Center in Buffalo, a federally qualified patient-centered medical home that serves much of the area's immigrant community. Eighty percent of its patients are on Medicaid or are uninsured and have incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The student team would work toward identifying patient obstacles, establishing goals of care and developing sustainable, cost-effective solutions. With guidance from the Camden Coalition, faculty advisors and support from Jericho Road providers, the student team set out to generate and execute an individualized care plan. Grant funding was then available to implement student-proposed measures.

Collaborative

Interdisciplinary UB student team works toward preventing chronic ER patients from falling through system cracks

Charles Syms, SSW clinical associate professor, is an advisor on the project. He has overseen an interdisciplinary team experience for the past three years involving SSW students working with medical students weekly at the Lighthouse Free Medical Clinic in Buffalo (see accompanying article). "While interdisciplinary teams aren't new per se, I do think that bringing students together early in their training is relatively new," he says. "Hopefully the idea will, down the line, drive those kinds of relationships into actual practices."

Jordan Katz, a fourth-year UB medical student, led the pursuit of the mini-grant after his experience in clinical rotations during the past year. "What quickly became clear to me was that hospital medicine is ill-equipped to meet the unique needs of these patients. Despite having a seemingly constant presence in the hospitals, these patients are chronically misunderstood. This experience will hopefully bring the patient's individual story back into focus," he points out.

David Essi, a UB Pharm. D candidate, was mainly interested in hearing the people's stories "because they may have very complicated things happen to them."

Mallory Abdulla, a registered nurse and UB candidate for a Doctorate of Nursing Practice, hoped to learn new interventions and a more efficient way of triaging patients. "I think nurses cross into social work very easily, making sure that they have the right resources," she relates.

Borngraber's interest is in medical social work. "I'm trying to learn what disenfranchised populations have to do to go through the health care system," she says. "When a patient needs intensive psychosocial interventions, the hospital doesn't have the resources to properly care for that patient. I'm hoping that through working with our little team that it becomes a microcosm for the bigger system, to help train medical staff to realize the most effective way of working with these patients."

Borngraber is encouraged by the dawning recognition of the vital role that social work plays in preventative health care. "If systems could be put in place that would allow more interprofessional teams of health care professionals to care for patients from a medical, social and psychological perspective, many of these patients wouldn't need to keep returning for emergency care," she explains. "As a student, I feel excited to be entering the field at a time when our entire system of health care is being redesigned to incorporate a more person-centered and preventative approach to patient care."

As the six-month project proceeded through the end of 2015, changes occurred in participation for various reasons. Essi and Abdulla had to opt out but not before making significant contributions to the project from their respective vantages, while the patient focus was reduced to one. Still, according to Borngraber, there was value in concentrating on the remaining patient, an 11-time ED visitor over 12 months for non-emergency services. It was enough for her and Katz to take a collaborative step toward formulating better care for such individuals.



Interprofessionally speaking

Health professions collaborate in team efforts to realize better health outcomes for patients

the social work student to

provide needed service as

well as to learn more about

health issues and disparities

facing the community,"

The SSW joined UB's initiative to integrate interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPE/IPCP) across the health profession schools in 2012. "It was important that social work be at the table," says Diane Elze, SSW associate professor and director of the MSW program. Together with colleagues from UB's Academic Health, Elze has played an integral role in developing and piloting IPE/IPCP curriculum for the Office of Interprofessional Education.

Describing herself as an enthusiastic cheerleader for IPE/

IPCP, Elze emphasizes the critical role played by social work students practicing in health care settings. "Interprofessional collaborative practice has been shown to improve health outcomes, increase safety and reduce medical errors among health care patients," she relates. "It's about professions coming together as an interprofessional, collaborative team to deliver effective, culturally-engaged, patient-centered health care to patients."

Elze has developed online cultural engagement and cultural competency modules for the UB Office of Interprofessional Education's web program scheduled to be implemented within the year. "We added cultural engagement," she explains, "because if health care providers are not engaging with patients" cultures, and if the health care team members are not engaging in knowledgeable ways with each other's cultures and cultural differences, health care delivery and teamwork will be less effective. I see cultural engagement and cultural humility as foundational to all of the other IPE/IPCP competencies."

SSW students have been eager to participate in interprofessional experiences, such as the pilot curriculum project; a collaborative SUNY IITG-funded grant with SUNY Buffalo State and UB health profession schools in which students worked

on a case study in interprofessional teams; an organizing meeting to establish an IPE Student Association; course-based collaborative work; and the Lighthouse Free Medical Clinic.

Social work students play a significant role at the clinic, which has been operating on Buffalo's East Side for 15 years. They work with UB medical students who serve a population without access to health care services.

"People who are working class may not be eligible for Medicaid and/or who you work for may not provide medical insurance,"

explains Charles Syms, SSW clinical "It is an opportunity for associate professor and preceptor for the social work students at the clinic. "My father was a construction laborer. As long as he was working, things were fine, but if he got sick and could not go to work, he didn't get paid. Many of these folks face the same issue."

> The social work students respond to any psychosocial needs of clinic patients with information and referral.

"It is an opportunity for the social work student to provide needed service as well as to learn more about health issues and disparities facing the community," Syms relates.

He notes that over the past year, the clinic has expanded to include dental and nutrition screenings. "People are starting to look at this and say, 'We can fit the different disciplines together to enhance the outcome."

- Jim Bisco







Comings & Goings

Maureen Hammett joined the SSW as the vice dean/chief of staff, having previously spent over 13 years at UB, and Megan Phipps started as a staff assistant for resource management. Lynn Pascucci retired as staff assistant from resource management, after 13 years in the SSW, and a total of 31 years at UB.

Mickey Sperlich, Christopher St. Vil and Noelle St. Vil started as assistant professors for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Continuing Education

In September, offered Cognitive Processing Therapy Provider Training with instructor Patricia Resick, PhD. Attendees came from all over, including the United Kingdom. Read more about this on page 11.

Students Winning Awards

MSW student Siobhan Fitzgerald-Cushing received a New York State Department of Health 2015 Commissioner's Special Recognition Award.

PhD student Jacqueline McGinley UBSSW (pictured to right) received a Pre-Dissertation Award from Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work.



Faculty Achievements

Assistant Professor Kelly Patterson and Research Professor Tom Nochajski, pictured with Karen Carman, Valuing the Intersection of Social Work won the 2015 Marie Weil Outstanding Scholarship Award from the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration for the article "Neighborhood Outcomes of Formally Homeless Veterans Participating in the HUD-VASH Program," which was published in the Journal of Community Practice.

Photo: Tom Nochajski and Kelly Patterson with Karen Carman, their community research partner. Photo courtesy of Laura Mangan. Professor Hilary Weaver was invited to give a plenary address at the International Indigenous Social Work conference in Darwin, Australia, titled "Finding Wellness through Balance: and Indigenous Ways."

UB's Civic Engagement and Public Policy awarded Civic Engagement Research Fellowships to the following social work faculty: Associate Professors Filomena Critelli and Gretchen Ely, Assistant Professors Nadine Murshid and Elizabeth Bowen.

Research Professor Tom Nochajski and Assistant Professor Kelly Patterson received the Homeless Alliance of Western New York Collaboration Award for their research titled "Study of Hope.'

> UB on the Road – Alumni dinners were held in Florida in February, Washington, DC, in April; and

New York City in June. Alumni

Tier of New York in June and

reunions were held in the Southern

Buffalo, New York, in September.

Alumni Making News

Al Dirschberger, PhD '09, MSW '99, was confirmed as the new commissioner of the Erie County Department of Social Services in March 2015.

Rodney Haring, PhD '07, MSW '02, was appointed as an at-large delegate to the American Indian and Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council.

Peter Lyons, PhD '99, professor in the Andrew Young School of Public Policy studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia was named the first vice provost and dean of the new Perimeter College following the consolidation of Georgia State and Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) campuses. This promotion followed five years as the associate provost for institutional effectiveness.

Elizabeth M. Woike-Ganga, MSW '04, was promoted to Chief Operating Officer at Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Inc.







Patricia Shelly, Director of Community Engagement and Expansion, and MPH/MSW student Rachel Wilson, were selected as two of 50 LGBTQ people in Western New York "whose impact should not be overlooked," according to Loop Magazine.



R2015IN FVIFW

National News Coverage

Assistant Professor Louanne Bakk received national media coverage on research about how Medicare open enrollment offers opportunity for savings, but few beneficiaries change plans.

Professor Deborah Waldrop received national media coverage on research about first responder's role in the end-of-life call research.



CSWE Annual Program
Meeting – our faculty,
staff and PhD students
participated in giving
25 presentations, and
we had over 100 attendees
at Our annual chicken wing
reception, including
a number of local
Denver alumni.

STARSZÁCING



Assistant Professor Louanne Bakk and colleagues' paper chosen for the 2015 Edna Stilwell Writing Award, for "National Priorities for Dementia Care: Perspectives of Individuals Living with Dementia and Their Care Partners," in the Journal of Gerontological Nursing.

 $PHOTO: \ Reprinted\ with\ permission\ of\ SLACK\ Incorporated.$

Associate Professor Yunju Nam selected as a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.



Professor Deborah Waldrop received the Award of Excellence in Research from the Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network and was invited to serve on the C-Change Planning Committee to develop a National Consensus Research Agenda for Palliative Care and Hospice Care in Cancer.

irectassistance



Alumnus Ron Allen knows the value of students helping students

Ron Allen (MSW '72) has two goals when he writes checks for the Students Helping Students fund, an activity that he does three times a year.

One, clearly, is to support the fund that provides financial assistance to help get students through emergencies that threaten to derail their progress through the MSW program. He's motivated by his own experiences in the program more than 40 years ago.

His other goal is to mentor School of Social Work students about the value of direct philanthropy, both raising money and dispensing it.

As a career-long institutional man in Washington, DC, Allen knows the workings of bureaus and agencies. From that perspective, he appreciates the power of direct action, of individuals helping individuals who are just an arm's reach away.

Allen's story of hardship as an MSW student is almost comical, but only because it has a happy ending.

It begins when he was finishing his senior year at Grambling College (now Grambling State University) in Louisiana, where he encountered a recruiter from the UB School of Social Work who convinced him to apply to the MSW program.

After graduating, Allen went home to Southern California. He heard nothing from UB. He took summer courses at UC San Diego in anticipation of starting graduate studies there.

Then he received a letter from UB accepting him into the MSW program. It would start in a few days.

So Allen flew to Buffalo with no preparation, including none of the money he could have earned from summer jobs if he'd known he was moving far away to go to graduate school. It was his first trip east. He went straight to

the registrar's office to sign up for a dorm room and discovered there were none for graduate students.

"I had a real deer-in-the-headlights moment standing there," he says. "I said, 'Surely you have some accommodation!" Nope.

Right there, he bumped into a fellow Grambling alum, who was settled in a small house with her husband and a baby. They opened their house to Allen and another homeless student. Allen pulled together a nest accessible by ladder in the rafters over the couple's kitchen, with a mattress and a light dangling on the end of an extension cord. His heat was what rose from the kitchen.

When his hosts had company, he camped out in other students' apartments so he wouldn't interrupt the evening clambering down the ladder to use the bathroom.

"At that age, you do what you have to do," he says.

Eventually he found a part-time job at the YMCA through another serendipitous connection, this time with someone he recognized from Los Angeles. He saved enough to sublet a one-room apartment from a student who was leaving Buffalo with a few months left on the lease.

Allen knew other MSW students barely getting by. "We helped each other. We made potluck meals, shared books. One student had a car, so we carpooled to school." That was students helping students in 1970.

After a year on campus, Allen moved to Washington, DC, for his field placement as an intern in the office of first-term U.S. Representative Ronald Dellums from California. He didn't have enough money to come back to Buffalo for graduation.

So, when Allen — who still lives in Washington and recently retired from an executive position with AARP — considered adding the School of

Social Work to his other philanthropic giving, the Students Helping Students Fund was a natural investment.

"I reflected on my experience as a student, thought about living in a place 3,000 miles away from home with no money," he says. "I wanted to make donations to help seed the fund."

And to seed an idea. Allen believes that charitable giving can be a community-building

"Wouldn't it be great to establish the student fund as a way to learn about the nuances of philanthropy, about best practices, so that students will leave UB with a philanthropy skillset," he says.

Indeed, Allen asks, why not develop what has already been started at UB — at the initiative of MSW students — into a national model for schools of social work to offer direct engagement in organizing and managing charitable giving?

For the moment, he'll be satisfied if he can encourage other SSW alums to contribute to Students Helping Students. Everyone involved will benefit.

For more information about the Student Helping Students fund, please contact Katie Crosby at khomer@buffalo.edu, or go to giving.buffalo.edu/give-to/social-work.

- Judson Mead



Ron Allen

e students ar student body gave to this funding semester! Associate Professor Barbara Ritth. were students body gave to this fundas semester; were alumni & friend

Total Raised: \$3,309.52

TRAUMA CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

UB SSW Adds New Evidence-Based Trauma Therapy to Repertoire

When UB School of Social Work made the decision in 2009 to adopt a trauma-informed and human rights perspective, the ripples of this commitment spread far and wide. It began with an overhaul of course content, but members of the School understood that the reach had to be even greater. In order for the new trauma focus to be impactful, practice with traumaspecific therapies had to be available to students, alumni, faculty and the entire Buffalo community.

One solution to sustaining trauma-focused competencies was to offer training sessions on evidence-based trauma-specific interventions. A collaborative team within the School came together, which consisted of The Office of Continuing Education, under directorship of Lesa Fichte; the Field Education

Department; and The Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC), co-directed by Sue Green, clinical associate professor. They developed comprehensive community-based programs to ensure that practitioners had access to current practice knowledge and skills.

For Green, theory needs to align with practice in order for students and service providers to be effective. "At the same time the School of Social Work was anchoring our curriculum in terms of being a trauma-informed program, we were lacking in specific clinical courses for our students," she notes. The challenge was to ensure that students and alumni not only had access to the latest trauma knowledge, but also had skills grounded in

evidence-based tools to help treat it. For this reason, the collaborative UB team, supported by Catholic Charities, offered training in two trauma-specific interventions: Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) in 2012, followed by training in Real Life Heroes in 2013.

An urgent call for UB SSW to continue providing training in evidence-based practices emerged. As Green shared, "A very deliberate conversation took place about a year ago with the field educators around what trauma training is needed in the Western New York community and what we need in order to continue to infuse into our community practitioners who are doing what we know to be trauma-specific evidence-based practice."

They landed on the idea to host a Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) Provider Training, held in September 2015. This evidence-based intervention is a cognitive-behavioral therapy that specifically addresses Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in individuals age 13 and older. UB SSW Dean Nancy Smyth was so confident in the value that this training could bring to the Buffalo community that she allocated School funds for this event, allowing participants to attend at a reduced cost.

Launching CPT trainings was Patricia Resick, PhD, professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University Medical Center, who created the CPT model. She came to UB

to deliver the two-day training to 100 attendees across a variety of disciplines. Participants came from Western New York, Rochester, Canada — and even all the way from the United Kingdom — to learn first-hand from Resick.

One of those in attendance at Resick's two-day training was Elyse Heagle, second-year MSW student. Intending to follow a clinical career after graduation, she was thrilled to have an opportunity to learn from Resick. "There are quite a few, but not a whole lot of people who have been trained and gone through the consultation process of CPT, and are considered official providers — which I will be by the end, once I finish this training. So for me, that's really exciting," Heagle shared. "As a practitioner, to be able to go into agencies or communities and offer this service [is valuable], and I really believe in

it. It's something that's driving my interest and passion in what I hope to do next year."

Green attended the training to learn as a participant. "It's something I didn't know," she stated simply, revealing a deep respect for evidence-based models and the imperative for

practitioners to know and follow them. "In my capacity as a clinical professor, I believe strongly in keeping myself up to date as much as possible around clinical work; it keeps me current."

In addition to the two-day training event, participants were encouraged to join follow-up consultation groups.

Coordinated by the Office of Continuing Education and ITTIC, four

groups of eight people each engaged in 20 total hours of deliberate discussion and reflection in order to strengthen the skills put forth by Resick. One of these groups consisted entirely of counselors from Lake Shore Behavioral Health who were supported by their organization to become CPT providers.

With a wide range of practitioners trained by Resick soon in the field, members of the Buffalo community can only benefit. "Having this training and training our counselors and therapists from the city increases Buffalo's capacity to respond to trauma and increases its voice and its

healing power," Heagle remarked. "I think it makes UB a beacon for trauma treatment, and that we acknowledge that it is important to be trained and have these skills to address trauma in various ways. It differentiates UB, because we already have that trauma-informed care focus. I feel like this just supports and builds on that mission to say, 'This is a very important area to address.'"

- Lauren Kroening



Left to Right: Patricia Resick, Sue Green and Nancy Smyth



It's In The NUMBERS

A community-based partnership has been instituted by Al Dirschberger (MSW '99, PhD '09), commissioner at Erie County Department of Social Services (EC-DSS), and UB SSW to conduct evidence-based program evaluations that will improve services and reduce costs. EC-DSS funded UB SSW doctoral student Nate Kerr, who is supervised by Associate Professor Barbara Rittner and assisted by MSW students Connor Walters and Kwasi Boaitey. The initial project will analyze 10 years' of data on 70,000 cases served by the Safety Net Assistance Program. It will explore demographic characteristics of those served by this program, with particular attention to geographic and seasonal differences, services referrals and usage, and length of stay. Nate Kerr has been working directly with Melissa Henneberger, program analyst at EC-DSS, as the lead researcher. The caseloads for the Safety Net Assistance program have grown significantly over the past

several years ,and that has put a strain on the Erie County budget since taxpayers are responsible for 71 percent of the costs. After the analysis is complete, Kerr and the team will provide EC-DSS with recommendations based on state and national best practices in assisting this population in gaining employment and reducing (or eliminating) their need for public assistance.

Nate is a natural for this project. His passion is utilizing data and research as a mechanism for social change, and for evidence-based practice and program fidelity. He entered the PhD program with an extensive background as a research information analyst. Given that there are over 70,000 cases in the data set, his experience prior to coming into the doctoral program in compiling, cleaning, maintaining and analyzing data is an asset. Additionally, he has been employed in social service programs in Western New York, Michigan and Minnesota, giving him the ability to understand data in context.

- Barbara Rittner

off the Press

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SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN CHILD WELFARE:
THE INTERACTIONAL MODEL

by Lawrence Shulman, Dean Emeritus of UB SSW [NASW Press, 2015]

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completing their field education overseas.

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Fall 2015 - MSW student Sarah Zammiello completed her field placement in the Dominican Republic with the Community Service Alliance. Read her blog at http://bit.ly/1nE579b.

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Spring 2016 - MSW student Leanne Thomas completed her field placement in India with Childline. Follow her blog at http://bit.ly/1N7oThU.

#MacroSW Twitter Chats

A collaboration of social workers, organizations, social work schools and individuals working to promote macro social work practice. Chats are held Thursday nights at 9:00 p.m. EST at Twitter hashtag #MacroSW.

#MACROSW CHAT ON 1/21 DISCUSSES POLITICS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW



ITTIC @UBittic



Hi All, I'm Shelley an intern at @UBittic Excited for tonight's #macrosw chat!

9:02 PM - 21 Jan 2016









discussion was heard 9:27 PM - 21 Jan 2016

@UBSSW



UB-Social Work



☆&ricka†°♡

@ikikadotcom

9:28 PM - 21 Jan 2016

#MacroSW



@emplesz_



Jumping in late...yoga (self care) ran over time. I'm Emily, MSW student at UBSWW. Excited for tonight #MacroSW





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J

Q

(i)

Justin Vest, MSW

@nasw That'd be great. I've wanting to write more on policy/politics from a social work perspective. #MacroSW

9:28 PM - 21 Jan 2016 • Silver Spring, MD, United States





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@SocialWorkersRJ A2 Let's not forgot access to health care

continues to be challenged, as you know #macrosw <some

I agree educational gaps should be addressed. All children should have the right to an adequate level of education

> EPISODE 147 - Rukshan Fernando, PhD, and Andy Germak: Social Entrepreneurship as a Social Work Practice

EPISODE 159 - Bonnie Collins and Elaine Hammond: Integrating Spirituality Into Social Work Practice: A Conversation (part 1 of 2)

EPISODE 162 - Ellen Fink-Samnick: Fostering Professional Resilience: The Professional Resilience Paradigm

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3Out-N-About









September 17, 2015 UB Night 2015 at Harbor Center, the School of Social Work was well represented with alumni, faculty and staff.

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Marna Metcalf's work in hospice awakened her passion for helping older adults with their health care needs. Now she's pursuing a career in health care administration by completing two graduate degrees at UB. She's earning a master's from the School of Social Work to learn to build community support for older adults. She'll also complete an MBA to obtain the skills she says she will need "to be a leader in the rapidly changing climate of health care and aging." Marna is grateful for the scholarship she received, which helped pay her tuition. "In the future, I hope to offer others the same thing you offered me: a chance to succeed."

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